Sayings of the season

"This is the strongest squad we have had for a long while and everybody is playing for their place. There is a buzz of excitement through the team at the moment" — assistant manager Terry Reardon during Slough's pre-season preparations.

"The side is better balanced and there is more steel in midfield than when I was there" — former Slough coach Tommy Trenter after watching Slough beat Marlow in September.

"Football is a cruel game. One minute you are up and everybody loves you, the next you are down and no one wants to know you." — manager Laurie Churchill.

"Although fifth in the table it is obvious that Slough are playing well below their best, both individually and as a team. Provided they can maintain a sense of urgency and steer clear of injuries there is no reason why Churchill's team cannot take the Isthmian League championship from Enfield." — Observer reporter John Clarke, in September.

"Competition for places is a healthy thing. Slough haven't guaranteed ms a first team place or anything like that" — goalkeeper Frank Parsons after signing from Woking for £2,000.

"If the Rebels are still lurking around the top of the table by the end of the month they can consider themselves earnest title challengers" — Sports Editor Geoff Martin in October.

"A successful team in a town of this size should be getting four-figure gates every week. I think people are beginning to realise that the football they can see at Wexham Park is often more entertaining than that in the Football League" — Slough chairman Gordon Greig.

"I don't give quotes to the press. I prefer to let the players do the talking where it matters — on the pitch." — manager Laurie Churchill.

"Slough will go on to re-emphasise their strongest ever bid for the title." — Geoff Martin after sealing Slough's first league defeat at Harrow.

"This has been an unlucky club for me" — striker Eggie James after being ruled out through injury for the third time.

"Tuesday's win came at the wrong time and in the wrong competition" — Observer reporter Eddie Fitzmaurice after Slough had beaten Barton in the Hitachi Cup. Barton had earlier knocked the Rebels out of the FA Cup.

"Most of us desire nothing more than to see the championship flag flying at Wexham Park and the FA Trophy on the sideboard. Success is just around the corner." — Slough Town Handbook, August.

"I can't understand why referees keep booking me. I'm not a dirty player but I do have a tendency to dispute decisions." — striker Micky Kiely after collecting his sixth caution.

"We see absolutely no prospect of improving ourselves with the Alliance League" — chairman Gordon Greig after Slough had turned down an Alliance League approach.

"I never dreamed we'd do it." — Slough manager Laurie Churchill after clinching the treble.

Laurie's proud record

'LAURIE has got the job — his results speak for themselves' was the comment from Town match secretary Reg White when Laurie Churchill was appointed full-time manager last season after a trial period. And Churchill's results have continued to do the talking ever since.

In a total of 77 competitive matches under his shrewd guidance, Slough have won 46 and lost only 13. And the Rebels have lost only 10 of 58 league games at the highest level of Isthmian League football since Churchill replaced Joe Aplins in January of last year.

Laurie's proud record over the past two seasons is detailed opposite.

Although friendlies are not included in the statistics, Slough have also had some fine results against strong teams sent to Wexham Park by Football League clubs, with wins over Fulham (2-1), Brentford (2-0), Queens Park Rangers (1-0) and Bournemouth (4-1), while the Rebels lost 1-2 to Tottenham and 2-5 to a Wimbledon side mainly comprising first team players.

Churchill's biggest disappointments during the season were an FA Trophy first round defeat at the hand of Dartford, who subsequently reached the semi-finals, and an early FA Cup exit against Barton.

Ironically, Slough beat Barton in the Hitachi cup just weeks later, and it is also worth noting that they did the league double over Sutton and drew with and beat Bishop's Stortford in the Hitachi Cup, these being the teams who contested the FA Trophy final at Wembley on Saturday.

Isthmian League Premier Division

	P	W	D	L	F	A
Season 1979-80:	16	8	4	4	30	18
Season 1980-81:	42	23	13	6	72	34
Total:	58	31	17	10	103	52

Berks and Bucks Senior Cup

Season 1979-80:	2	1	0	1	1	1
Season 1980-81:	5	5	0	0	14	4
Total:	7	6	0	1	15	5

Football Association Cup

Season 1980-81:	3	2	0	1	8	3

Football Association Trophy

Season 1980-81:	2	1	0	1	7	4

Hitachi Cup

Season 1980-81:	7	6	1	0	16	7
TOTAL (all games):	77	46	18	13	149	71

Meet the men who clinched the championship

Richard Teale (goalkeeper): The supporters 'Spiriyman of the Year' for the second time running, Teale had a tremendous season for Slough and his brave goalkeeping won them many league points. Still haunted by the mistake which almost cost Slough vital points late in the season against Sutton, but that shouldn't detract from an excellent campaign.

Dave Yerby (full back): made the position his own from early in the season. His well-timed tackles and speedy incursions into enemy territory down the flank endeared him to the fans. An early Laurie Churchill signing, he makes up for his lack of inches by sheer competiveness.

John Boyer (central defender): one of several Slough players who have never had a better season. Boyer formed an instant link with Eric Young at the heart of the defence. His timing and commitment were superb apart from a nervous spell towards the end of the season.

Eric Young (central defender): How long can the Rebels hold on to this battling defender who never gives up? Not only was he outstanding in the well-organised defence, but was also a constant threat to other teams at set pieces. His power in the air certainly swung things Slough's way in the championship-clincher at Sutton.

Slough fans have long since forgiven him for that, for Pearson has the style and the experience to improve and inspire the young players around him.

Keith White (midfield): signed from Burnham, Keith settled slowly into the swing of things at Wexham Park, but despite injury problems, came back towards the end of the season to play superbly. Lacked confidence at times but the Slough fans, already pleased with the impact, will surely see the best of him next season.

Pat Morrissey (midfield): perhaps Laurie Churchill's best signing. Morrissey was a joy to watch throughout the season as he sprayed excellent passes to every corner of the field. There was a stage during Slough's worst spell when Morrissey was the man behind practically every constructive thing they did, and his three penalty goals in the Hitachi Final against Walthamstow were a fitting reward for a great season.

Micky O'Sullivan (midfield): if Morrissey is the artisan for there can be fewer players who work harder game after game. A ferocious tackler, O'Sullivan has given Slough the bite they needed in midfield and when he wins the ball, can use it to good effect. An excellent choice for captain.

Barry Friend (midfield): not his best season — injuries played a part in preventing Friend from showing his top form over a sustained period, but he provided the fans, as usual, with some magical moments. Friend came back to form at just the right time to boost Slough's title challenge in the closing stages but finished the season on crutches with a nasty ankle injury.

Dave Russell (midfield): set himself a target of 21 goals for the season but netted just 12. Started well and finished brilliantly, but had a poor mid-season when little went right for him. When his confidence returned in the last month Russell was in scoring form and scored an unforgettable goal against Sutton.

Eggie James (striker): injuries kept the former Woking player out for long periods and not surprisingly, he had his good ones and bad times, but was always likely to do something extraordinary, became a firm favourite with fans and on his better days was the perfect decoy for Kiely. Pity he doesn't make more use of his height in the penalty area.

Micky Kiely (striker): his 31 goals made him Slough's top scorer by a long stretch, but that was only half of Kiely's contribution. His unselfish running and ability to draw defenders made countless more openings for the men around him, and surely raise the 'most improved player' accolade. Booked too often for comfort but, despite that, had a truly tremendous season.

John Bishop (striker): came to Slough on a free transfer from Enfield and added width and stability up front, though a shade indecisive at times. Carries the ball well and still has much to offer.

Frank Parsons (goalkeeper): spent most of his time after joining from Woking as understudy to Richard Teale but when called into first team action, showed his undoubted class. Content to wait his chance and deserves a medal for patience alone.

Steve Hardwick (defender): came from Wycombe on a free transfer and although not part of this season's chase for the treble, must certainly figure in Churchill future plans. But where will he play?

Rowan Dodds (striker): played most of his football, and scored most of his goals, for the reserves but showed he has first-team potential when given an opportunity. Like Steve Norman, an exciting home-grown prospect.

Skilful Dave Russell.

Snippets from Wexham Park

SLOUGH scored 118 competitive goals during the season, but none more spectacular than one full-back Bill Nicholls bagged for the Rebels in an FA Cup replay in 1952. Bill took a free-kick against Banbury and hammered it into the net from his own half. After the match officials measured the distance as 72 yards!

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NO prizes for naming Slough's top goalscorer — it was Micky Kiely, surely showing his best-ever form in non-league football. Kiely snagged up 31 goals and next best for Slough was Eggie James who claimed 17. Dave Russell got 12 and Pat Morrissey's eight included an unusual hat-trick of penalties in the Hitachi Cup Final against Walthamstow.

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SEVERAL Slough players topped a half century of appearances this season. Those who did were John Boyer (59), Micky Kiely (58), Richard Teale (57), Micky O'Sullivan (56), Eric Young (53) and Dave Russell (52). Just under the 50 were Pat Morrissey and Keith White both with 49 and Vic Akers with 48, while Eggie James made 44 appearances, Barry Friend 38, Steve Norman 30, Terry Reardon 23, John Bishop 12, Rowan Dodds six, Charlie Marks three, and Bruce Pownall two.

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HOW did Slough get their nickname. The Rebels? Back in the early 1940's they were called The Wakpe because of the club colours but in 1946 they broke away from the Spartan League to become founder-members of the Corinthian League and some degree of controversy. 'Rebels' they were called and the name stuck.

Top scorer Micky Kiely.

Turnstiles click 26,139 times

THE turnstiles have been clicking merrily at Wexham Park during Slough Town's treble-winning season.

Attendances have more than doubled those of last season, when the team struggled.

In 40 league, cup and friendly games at Wexham Park the total attendance has been 26,139, an average of 653 per game.

But the most striking improvement has been seen in league matches. Last season's average of 470 was increased this season by approximately 60 per cent, for 16,174 paid to see 21 games, an average of 770.

Undoubtedly the team's success, coupled with their attractive style of football, has won Slough the extra support and the club can only hope that the fans stay with them next season.

For the record, the top home attendances were 2,112 for the home league game against Wycombe Wanderers on New Year's Day, 1,216 and 1,139 for home games in league and Hitachi Cup against Enfield, and 1,2000 for the last home league game.